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S&P U.S. Charter Schools 2026 Outlook: Stable Today While Pressure Points Are Signaling Rising Vulnerabilities

Sector View: Stable

- S&P Global Ratings' view of the U.S. charter school sector remains stable, supported by steady to growing per-pupil funding and generally healthy demand, for now. Many schools continue to hold their market position or expand, while maintaining healthy liquidity and operating margins.
- Competition for kindergarten-grade-12 (K-12) minor populations has intensified in some areas of the country, primarily due to weakening K-12 demographics and expanding school choice voucher programs.
- Schools are focused on managing continued expense pressures and persistent teacher shortages amid slower economic growth, but budget pressures are most pronounced at the lower end of the ratings scale.

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10-Dec-2025 | 14:50 EST

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